

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A Braille input device, comprising:

a plurality left-hand group of four dot keys aligned substantially in side-by-side relation to one another in a single left row and a right-hand group of four dot keys aligned substantially in side-by-side relation to one another in a single right row, said single left row and said single right row being in substantial left-to-right alignment with one another for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters; and

each dot key of said left-hand group and each dot key of said right-hand group having a flat, generally rectangular structure;

at least one a left-hand group of four function key keys positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said plurality of said left-hand group of dot keys[[.]] and a right-hand group of four function keys positioned in close proximity to said right-hand group of dot keys;

each function key of said left-hand group of four function keys being positioned above and in spaced apart relation to an associated dot key of said left-hand group of four dot keys to facilitate location of each of said four function keys;

each function key of said left-hand group of four function keys and each function key of said right-hand group of function keys having a point-like structure to distinguish it from said flat, generally rectangular structure of said dot keys;

each function key of said right-hand group of four function keys being positioned above and in spaced apart relation to an associated dot key of said right hand group of four dot keys to facilitate location of each of said function keys of said right-hand group of four function keys;

a cursor router key positioned between said left-hand group of four dot keys and said right-hand group of four dot keys in side-by-side alignment therewith so that a user can access said cursor router key with a left hand or a right hand without reaching above or below the dot keys.

2-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A Braille input device, comprising:

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a plurality of left-hand group of four dot keys aligned substantially in side-by-side relation to one another in a single left row and a right-hand group of four dot keys aligned substantially in side-by-side relation to one another in a single row, said single left row and said single right row being in substantial left-to-right alignment with one another for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters;

each dot key of said left-hand group and said right-hand group having a flat, generally rectangular structure:

a Braille display including a plurality of Braille cells positioned in a row; and at least one a left-hand group of four function key keys positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said plurality said left-hand group of four dot keys and a right-hand group of four function keys positioned in close proximity to said right-hand group of four dot keys;[[.]]

each function key of said left-hand group of four function keys being positioned above and in spaced apart relation to an associated dot key of said left-hand group of four dot keys to facilitate location of each of said four function keys of said left-hand group of said four function keys:

each function key of said left-hand group of function keys and each function key of said right-hand group of function keys having a point-like structure to distinguish it from said flat, generally rectangular structure of said dot keys;

each function key of said right-hand group of four function keys being positioned above and in spaced apart relation to an associated dot key of said right-hand group of four dot keys to facilitate location of each of said four function keys of said right-hand group of four function keys:

a cursor router key being positioned between said left-hand group of four dot keys and said right-hand group of four dot keys in side-by-side alignment therewith so that a user can access said cursor router key with a left hand or a right hand without reaching above or below the dot keys.

8-12. (canceled)

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